

Column: Students invited to participate in 'If I were Mayor' contest



16 HOURS AGO • [MAYOR PAUL AZIZ](#)

As Andy Rooney used to start many of his stories with, "Did you ever wonder...?"

Now it is my turn and I am asking our Lebanon youth, "Did you ever wonder what you would do if you were Mayor?"

It is interesting that this was one of the big questions I asked myself before running for mayor. In my case I ended up running for office and winning. I have been able to see many of those ideas come to fruition.

This month I am going on tour to our Lebanon schools and inviting kids to participate in a really cool annual contest where they get to give their ideas and opinions and answer that big question: "If I were Mayor, I would . . ." After all, what kid does not have plenty ideas and opinions?

This year the city of Lebanon and the Oregon Mayors Association is sponsoring the 2015 "If I were Mayor. . ." contest. This is a fun opportunity for kids to share their

ideas and even a chance to win a prize.

There are three different categories for the grade levels of students. The city council and I will choose one winner, and one or more honorable mentions for each category. The local winners will be submitted to the Oregon Mayor's statewide competition.

At last year's Oregon Mayors Association conference, I saw the awesome work kids did to win the contest from all over the state. It was amazing to see the thought and hard work put into the entries from each category.

The first category is for fourth and fifth grade students and that is to answer the question by making a poster. The second category is for sixth to eighth grade students and they will do an essay. The high school students will do an electronic presentation with a video or PowerPoint.

I am getting this out early this year because I want to see a lot of participation this year and maybe we can get a statewide winner this year! The local winners will get a \$100 gift card and certificate and honorable mentions receive a \$25 gift card. The Statewide winner will get an iPad Air.

The deadline for entries is April 30, so you have plenty of time to get your kids pumped up and ready to get creative and tell us what they would do if they were the Mayor. I might even "borrow" some of their ideas!

Mayor Paul

The official entry form and contest rules may be obtained by contacting the city of Lebanon at 541-258-4261 or going to City Hall at 925 Main Street. Forms can also be found at the front office of all Lebanon schools and the Lebanon Library, located at 55 Academy Street and on the City of Lebanon Website.